
Title: Following the virtues...

Author: Elric Telamon

Following the virtues in
our modern times

Alas, you might sneer or
cringe when reading the
title of this tome. After
all, who worries about
virtues in these days ?

Whether you visit the
first bank of Britannia (
a common meeting place
of citizens), or say, the
market-place in Luna, you
will see a lot of people
who apparently have
forgotten about those

eight virtues Lord British
developed.

Why should they care
about them, after all ?
Sure, if all you worry
about is thine profit, the
sound of coins in your
treasure chest, the sheer

amount of valuables you
have stashed away... if all
you desire is fame, or
ranking as the most
notorious murderer in
Sosaria... why would you
care about the virtues ?
Even for an honest

citizen, the virtues might
not look all that
appealing.

And if someone requests
more details on, say, the
effect of following the
virtue of Honour, all they
usually worry about is

the benefit of it: the
"bonus" of some of the
virtues, such as the

ability to walk among
agressive beasts while
embracing your honor.
It is a sad thing to see
that those people do not

spend any thought on the
philosophy and purpose of
the respective virtue.

It is sad that many
people have not even
heard of the tales of
Jaana, or Katrina, or Iolo,
companions of their

respective virtues.

"So what do I get out of
following those virtues ?"
you might ask now.
Well, remember why Lord
British has established
them. Sosaria was in

turmoil after the
mysterious Stranger had
shattered the Gem Of
Immortality.

As you might remember,
the whole world was
reshapened after this,
new towns were

established, travellers
from other dimensions
appeared.

Lord British tried to
create a guideline to go
by... not rules and laws.
Those are recorded in the
Sosarian law books.

Now... eight virtues to go
by.

Those, if followed by
enough citizens, were
supposed to help establish
order and peace in our
world.

To possibly even lessen

the need for a lot of
laws and enforcement of
these laws.

And a lot of people did
try to go by the rules.
If you would take the
time to study Sosaria's

past, rich of legends and

tales, you would soon
discover enlightening tales
about some of those
champions of the virtues...
mighty warriors who
displayed honor and valor,
with their sword raised,
facing the most terrible

dangers.

Of monks and healers who
excelled in compassion and
sacrifice.

Paladins who both
displayed honesty, justice
and spirituality.

So what IS the benefit
of following them ?
There are several answers
to this, which I will
explain to you now.

Following some or all of
the virtues might earn

you ridicule or mockery
by some of the less
honorable or ignorant
citizens of this world.
Yet, you should consider
going by the virtues not
for your prestige or
personal gain (as in
"material gain"), but for
the improvement for you
as a person.

Following them can be
quite fulfilling, satisfying,
enlightening.

It is up to you to decide
whether you will follow
them. Yet, you will not
be the only person who
will benefit from it.

Your benefits will be way
beyond mere material
needs... you will grow and
develop as a person,
worthy to call yourself a
champion of one, two, or
even all of the virtues.

However, achieving that
goal means to interact

with people... to actually
be an active follower of
the virtues.

Imagine the joy of a
beggar or orphan that
you share your last few
coins of gold with.

The gratefulness and
respect of a companion in
battle, whom you risk
your life for, maybe
sacrificing it (and
fortunately, in our world,
death in battle does not
mean an eternal end to
your existence).

The respect of those who
see you face great perils,
displaying valor.

The trust you might get
from an employer or
guildmate because they
know you are honest at
all times, and can be
trusted without the fear
of being stabbed in the
back, or stolen from.

Let me relate a short
tale that proved my
theory about the
satisfaction and (more
than material) benefits
of following the virtues.

When I was a young
fighter, I once went down
to the pits of the
dungeon called Wrong.

There, I encountered the
spirit of an even younger,
less experienced warrior.

He had been slain by
some of the terrifying
monsters dwelling the
dungeon.

I resurrected him... the
only way for me to do
so, being a paladin not
experienced in the use of
magic, was to cast the
"Noble Sacrifice" spell,
thereby risking my life,
as my lifeforce was
lessened to a very small
amount, as a "prize" to
pay for resurrecting the
young warrior... I was a
bit nervous about doing
so, surrounded by

powerful evil creatures,
yet I knew that I had
resurrect this young
citizen.

I did, and I also handed
him some armour and
weapons I had collected
elsewhere, in order for
him to safely escape
from Wrong.

He thanked me, and I
didn't see him again for
a long time.

Many moons later, I
travelled to the dangerous
lands of Felucca, where I
was soon hunted and
surrounded by a group of
blood-thirsty murderers,
eager to shed my blood.
Even though I did try to
defend myself and chase
them away, I was soon
overpowered.

Suddenly, from amid these
rogues, stepped a person
clad in black clothes.

Seeing his face under the
hood of his robe, I
quickly recognized him... it
was the warrior I had
resurrected in the pits
of Wrong.

He now was one of the
leaders of a vile group
of murderers.

He told his companions to
leave me alone, and let
me escape, in order to
repay his debt (which I
didn't consider a debt,
yet there must be a
small amount of honor
left even in the wretched
brain of a murderer).

Should I have tried to
attack them, even though
I knew I wouldnt have
survived ? After all, I
would have followed the
virtue of Valor then.

Yet, I chose to leave,
knowing that my freedom
and live were saved by
the fact I had displayed
sacrifice, compassion, even
honor, when resurrecting
the young warrior long

ago...

And this also goes to
show you that following
ALL of the virtues
sometimes can be very
difficult. Following one of
them might bring you in
conflict with another one.
Its up to you to decide
which one to go by.
BUT... going by at least
one of them is more
than a lot of people ever
accomplish, and in my
opinion is way more
valuable than just chasing
for more gold, more
possessions.

If more of us would
decide to follow the
paths of the eight
virtues, this land would
be more peaceful. And
instead of chasing for
rainbows, we might be
able to find peace and
fulfillment in ourselves, by
striving to live a virtuous
life.

It might gain us the
respect of our fellow
citizens, but even if all
our attempts will go
undetected, being a
virtuous person should be
something you do for
yourself, not others, or
for material gains.

The least you could do is
educate yourself
about the former
champions of virtue, the
philosophy and intention of
each one of those
virtues, and to consider
whether money and fame
is all in live worth
striving for.

The choise is up to you...
who knows, you might find
an all new kind of
excitement trying to be
virtuous...

Elric Telamon